

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying counterfeit articles, comprising the steps of:

reading a first pattern and a second pattern;

converting said first pattern and said second pattern into a corresponding first data set and second data set; and

comparing said first and second data sets to each other.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is a bar code.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

Claims 19-30. (Cancelled)

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) A system for identifying counterfeit articles, comprising:

means for reading a first pattern and a second pattern;

means for converting said first pattern and said second pattern into a corresponding first data set and second data set; and

means for comparing said first and second data sets to each other.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

Claim 33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is a bar code.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) A counterfeit resistant article, comprising;  
a first randomly-generated marking readable to generate a first data set; and  
a second marking readable to generate a second data set, wherein said first data set and said second data set are related according to a predefined relationship.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said first marking is invisible.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said first marking exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said predefined relationship is determined by an encryption algorithm and an encryption key.

Claim 41. (Original) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, further comprising a framing image.

Claim 42. (Cancelled)